

JAN 6 1949



SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*November
1948*



Miscellany

Lick Observatory, December 2
 Editor—Enclosed is another check for five dollars . . . Divert it to whatever conservation fund needs bolstering the most . . .

RICHARD C. SILL

• The check is Mr. Sill's third, and has been turned over to the new Conservation and Memorial Fund, open to small, medium, or large contributions. Thanks go to a young man working 65 hours a week for his Ph.D., and unable to afford the time he would like to give toward support of club purposes.

Atherton, October 29

Editor—We have just read, with great interest, your article on the FWSA convention in Pasadena. As members of the Stanford Ski Club we have just participated in a vote whereby our club decided that even the one dollar student rate was excessive for a compulsory individual membership in the FWSA.

We heartily agree with your position as stated, and suggest that the problem might be solved by charging an increased fee (\$50 to \$75), for each member club. This would

have a two-fold effect: (1) Increase the total funds of FWSA. (2) Encourage member clubs to increase their membership to make payment easier.

The Skier would sell subscriptions on an individual basis as before, but would be aided by a reasonable donation each year from the FWSA.

HOWARD A. IVES, JR.

MARY E. WILBUR

Contents

Formal Attire, <i>Haven Jorgensen</i> . . .	Cover
More Hands on Deck	3
Outings for 1949	4
Ski Patrol Notes	5
Mountain Training	
Northwest Division	
Eastern Division	
Avalanches	5
N.S.A. Names New President	6
W.S. Committee Supplement	6
Mexico to Canada on Foot	7
San Jacinto—Still Hope	7
Postage Stamps to Sleep On	7
Tappaan Lodge Rules and Rates	8
Ski Hut Fund	8

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933, of *Sierra Club Bulletin*, published monthly except August at Berkeley, California, for November, 1948. County of Alameda, State of California, ss. Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared David R. Brower, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit: 1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4; Editor, David R. Brower, 2057 Center St., Berkeley 4; Managing Editor, none; Business Manager, none. 2. That the owner is: Sierra Club (a corporation), 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4; no stockholders; Officers: Francis P. Farquhar, President; Richard M. Leonard, Secretary; Robert L. Lipman, Treasurer, San Francisco. 3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none. DAVID R. BROWER, Editor. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of October, 1948. (SEAL) SYLES S. BROWNING, Notary Public in and for said County and State. (My commission expires July 21, 1950.)

Published monthly except August by the Sierra Club, 2061 Center Street, Berkeley 4, California. Annual dues are \$6.00 (first year \$12.00), of which \$1.00 is for subscription to *Sierra Club Bulletin*. Entered as second class matter at Post Office, Berkeley, under Act of March 3, 1879. Contributions and changes of address should go to address above; communications on matters of club policy should be addressed to the Secretary, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

DAVID R. BROWER, *Editor of the Sierra Club Bulletin*; Harriet Parsons, *Associate Editor*; Ansel Adams, John Barnard, Barbara Bedayn, Arthur Blake, Joan Clark, August Frugé, Morgan Harris, Weldon Heald, Charlotte Mauk, Marion Parsons, Vivian Schagen, Blanche Stallings.



... TO

More

We
 servat
 keepin
 ago—to
 as man
 in ord
 bers in
 club as
 reason
 ings of
 tainen
 tees, m
 ing or
 Also
 materi
 from t
 time—
 that th
 are no
 these p
 five bo
 Club),
 active
 Army
 on the
 Don
 initiate
 tors h
 kindne
 asked
 we'll t
 for it f
 don't
 we the
 We're
 We

SIERRA



Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 33

NOVEMBER, 1948

NUMBER 10

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

For the November Record

More Hands on Deck

We dropped in on a meeting of the Conservation Committee the other night, in keeping with a conclusion reached long ago—to wit, editors should at least kibitz as many meetings and activities as possible in order to know how to keep the members informed in the *SCB* about what the club as a whole is up to. That same line of reasoning also found us, recently, at meetings of the Winter Sports, Outing, Mountaineering, and Visual Education committees, not to mention the Directors' meeting or that of the Editorial Board.

Also we try to go through the mass of material that emanates, via mimeograph, from the Secretary's office from time to time—50 or so pages per month—in order that the more important of the items that are not classified can find their way into these pages. We are also trying to get out five books (three of them for the Sierra Club), ski and climb a little, maintain an active status in the Reserve Corps of the Army, raise a family, and work for a living on the side.

Don't think for a minute we're trying to initiate a Be Kind to Editors Week. Editors have long since learned to expect kindness only from other editors. We asked for the job with our eyes open and we'll take the consequences. We didn't ask for it for personal gain (Sierra Club editors don't get paid), but because, starry-eyed, we thought there was a job to be done. We're still starry-eyed.

We are going into all this detail just to

cite from the case history we know best exactly how much it takes from a lot of people, many of them busier than we, to keep this sort of club going, to make your dues support the kind of program you contributed them toward.

And these busy people pay dues, too, adding an unrecorded amount in out-of-pocket contributions the Treasurer never hears about. They're not griping; they probably like it or they wouldn't do it. But they do get wistful, now and then, wondering why they have to do almost all the work, while most of the other 6,000 dues-paying members apparently sit back and relax—use the lodges and ski facilities, go on the outings, attend the local entertainment and educational meetings, and read (may we presume?) the publications.

Now and then relaxers will think up a good idea and send it in. We're glad they do. Too often they'll close their letter of transmittal with a why haven't you done something about it. Or they'll gracefully decline the appointment of themselves as a committee of one to follow through on their own idea.

* * *

The truth is, we're bitter. If we'd written this piece at the time of the San Geronio fight, we wouldn't have been; for then, in response to a request that you think the question through and write people about it, sending us copies, we were flooded with black-and-white evidence of your interest in conservation. But somehow we didn't get around to writing a piece then complimenting the membership and it's too late

crease the
age mem-
bership to

ptions on
out would
tion each

IVES, JR.
LBUR

Cover
3
4
5
5
6
6
7
7
7
8
8

QUIRED BY
b Bulletin,
Alameda,
aforesaid,
es and says
knowledge
on for the
the Act of
names and
Sierra Club,
Managing
1050 Mills
t. Leonard,
gages, and
rtgages, or
s 26th day
State. (My

ual dues are
class matter
dress above;
Francisco 4.
e Editor:
E. Morgan
Stallings.

ER, 1948

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN, NOVEMBER, 1948

now because, as we said, we're bitter. Last month we announced a contest and asked for some member-cerebrations about dams. The prizes, we think, were attractive. Cedric Wright began to worry about how he could make up portfolios. We set a deadline and waited for the postman.

The postman has been coming regularly, but he has only brought us bills. True, Weldon Heald—director, Editorial Board member, author busy on his own books, contributor of an excellent article on Sierra snow to the forthcoming annual *SCB*—wrote to say that he wished he had time to write one of the articles on dams we asked for. *Not a single other one among you so much as raised a pen to a piece of paper.*

Are we to assume that for all you care they can put up an El Capitan dam and flood Yosemite Valley?

* * *

Of course, you may very well feel that your best contribution to the Sierra Club program is not in writing articles about dams. All is not lost even if your talents have not established a trend in this direction (although this is the direction in which most talents should be coaxed just now). There are so many enigmas plaguing the working conservationists these days that they are beginning to feel a little frustrated at their having only two hands. Past pages of the *SCB* have given a fairly broad inventory of the enigmas now in stock. These pages add a few more. If you don't like enigmas, you might try your hand at throwing a few dilemmas. We have those, too. The important thing is that we need your helping hand. We don't want you to consider the Sierra Club merely a device to service your outdoor needs; we don't expect you to make it a way of life, either. But somewhere in between there must be a place where you can fit in, where you can "act for the unnumbered men who will have to be less prodigal than we and who are entitled to explore and enjoy mountains as pleasant as ours."

Your Member's Handbook—the log of a club that has come a long way—should provide you with general avocational guidance. The committee chairmen will be

glad to be more specific; there's not one of them who hasn't ten worthy projects, one of which may be waiting for just the forward push you can give it. We'll list the principal committee chairmen (address care of the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco), and the sermon is over.

Conservation.....Arthur H. Blake
Editorial.....David R. Brower
Library and Rooms.....Alfred E. Weiler
Lodge.....Alex Hildebrand
Membership.....E. W. Cunningham
Mountaineering.....Morgan Harris
Natural Sciences.....Milton Hildebrand
Outing.....Richard M. Leonard
Visual Education.....Kenneth D. Adam
Winter Sports.....Einar Nilsson

Outings for 1949

The Outing Committee announces the following dates and places for the benefit of those who must start their plans early:

High Trip.—Northern Yosemite National Park. *First two weeks*: July 3, Tuolumne Meadows, Benson, Tilden, Dorothy lakes. *Second two weeks*: July 17, Buckeye Creek, Peeler Lake, Matterhorn country, McCabe and Green lakes.

Base Camp.—Sequoia National Park. Mitre Basin on Rock Creek. *No. 1*: July 17. *No. 2*: July 31.

Burro Trips.—Little Lakes Valley, Pine Creek, and the headwaters of Bear and Mono creeks, Sierra and Inyo national forests. *No. 1*: July 3. *No. 2*: July 17. *No. 3*: July 31. *No. 4*: August 14.

Knapsack Trips.—High Sierra: July 3-16, Mammoth Lakes area, Duck Pass, Dorothy Lake, Pioneer Basin, Second Recess, Lake Italy, Pine Creek.

Out of state: Possible only if an experienced leader, who knows good out-of-state knapsack country firsthand, is found by February. Qualified persons should write the Outing Committee.

Saddle Trip.—Yosemite National Park, Sierra National Forest. South from Tuolumne meadows immediately after the High Trip (to get the stock headed back toward their home at Carroll Creek).

Full details will be announced in the March *SCB*, by which time the various leaders should have divined how much the trips will cost.

Official National Ski Patrol System Notes

—from *Winter Sports News*

Mountain and Winter Warfare Training

The national office has been officially advised by General Devers, Chief Army Field Forces, that the 38th Combat Team, formerly at Camp Carson, has now been transferred to Fort Lewis, Washington, as part of the 2nd Infantry Division. The 4th Regimental Combat Team at Fort Lewis and the 14th Regimental Combat Team at Camp Carson (Colorado) will undergo winter warfare training. Direct enlistments for these two units are not now authorized.

The national office will be advised of any change in ruling.

Division News and Memos Pacific Northwest Division

At the request of General Mark W. Clark, commanding the Sixth Army at the Presidio of San Francisco, Lyle St. Louis, divisional chairman, is working out co-operative steps for setting up civilian defense measures with 6th Army Headquarters.

Notes from the Division Skiing Doctor

The skier who would avoid an accident while skiing, must be aware of three factors which are important in accident prevention. These factors are first, the physical condition of the skier; second, the state of the terrain on which he skis, and third, a knowledge of skiing.

This year, in the Eastern Division, 614 accidents were reported. Of these 288 were sprains, 214 were fractures, 22 were dislocations, and 66 were lacerations. The balance was a miscellaneous group of injuries. It is believed that this number represents approximately one-third of the total number of injuries that occurred in the Eastern Division. The reports indicate that good skiers were infrequently injured.

A significant number of accidents result from the inability of the novice to ride a

rope tow, and to the crowded conditions found on many popular slopes and trails.

The use of safety bindings has not been general enough in the Eastern Division to permit evaluation.

The report card used in the Eastern Division includes a supplement for the attending physician. These cards indicate the patrol is doing a satisfactory job. They also indicate that not all the accidents are being reported. If there is to be correlation between what the doctor says and what the patrolman does, every accident card must be sent forward through channels to the divisional doctor.

Last winter the coverage was very spotty. No reports were received from many prominent areas. It is hoped that all patrolmen will cooperate in the attempt to record with the medical committee all accidents that come within their scope.

Avalanches

[We meant to pass this on to *SCB* readers long ago, and it's still not too late. The "angels who protect skiers" from avalanches have not yet had much to do in California because, fortunately or unfortunately, our ski development has not yet really penetrated the avalanche realm. The points made below should be borne in mind by those who are enthusiastic about Mineral King, where 94 avalanches were recorded in the mild winter of 1947-48—recorded but not worried about.]

There is a great, menacing problem that we skiers must take seriously before it is too late. For hanging over our heads, on almost every ski area in the west, is the constant threat of an avalanche.

How imposing is this threat to you as an individual? A look at last year's and this year's record should start you thinking:—

Thousands of skiers skied the Christ-mas bowl atop Sun Valley's Mt. Baldy last winter. Each layer of snow was trampled as it fell by a horde of skiers—yet one

warm day last spring the entire Christmas bowl avalanched from top to bottom. Fortunately, the angels that protect skiers were on duty and not a single skier was on the slope. Maybe you hadn't heard about this one, but it happened.

Earlier in the winter a huge wind-slab slope broke off burying a careful of skiers near Jackson Hole. One boy was killed.

A few weeks ago another wind-slab slope broke loose on Colorado's Loveland Pass. Three skiers were killed. Shortly afterwards another group of Colorado skiers barely escaped with their lives when another avalanche caught them.

Seven years ago at Alta a young boy was killed in an avalanche. A few years later the whole of Rustler Mt. slid—at six o'clock when everyone had quit the slopes. Two years ago another boy was caught and miraculously escaped death.

Only last week a train was swept from the tracks by a slide in Colorado, and tragedy struck once more taking the life of an Aspen skier.

It is quite probable that these accidents could have been averted had we in this country the knowledge of avalanches and the skilled men to apply it that the Swiss have. For years the death toll from avalanches was heavy on the Swiss slopes. Finally the government stepped in, employed top research scientists, set up snow observation laboratories in widespread areas and eventually acquired sufficient knowledge to reduce the avalanche death rate to a minimum.

As the ever-growing multitude of skiers flock to America's mountains the avalanche problem becomes increasingly greater. The skier needs and deserves some protection.

The Forest Service has recognized this problem to some extent and has provided at Alta a winter ranger, Monty Atwater, to keep his weather-eye on the slide areas. Monty has sincerely done everything in his power to protect the public and has acquired a good personal knowledge of Alta's slope behavior. However he is very much handicapped by the fact that in the U. S. there is very little scientific data to aid him.

Undoubtedly some Forest Service offi-

cials are anxious to go further with avalanche control work. But to do it properly—that is, to engage scientists in the study of snow physics and to establish laboratories—a sizable appropriation would be required. No doubt a lot of forests burned before Washington set up their elaborate fire fighting machine.

The administrators of our ski terrain need the backing of the public when they cry for help—so get behind them—write your congressman—do anything to help the cause—lest you too become engulfed in a cloud of snow.

—*Intermountain Ski Review*
February, 1948

N.S.A. Names New President

At its annual convention, held November 11-14 in Chicago, the National Ski Association elected Arther J. Barth as its new president. Roger Langley, for many years president of the association and editor-in-chief of the *American Ski Annual*, has been named Executive Secretary of the N.S.A.

W. S. Committee Supplement

One of these winters it may happen that we will publish the names of all the members of the Winter Sports Committee at the same time. For more years than we'll admit, the copy has gone to the printer minus the appointees for the southern department of the committee and Glen Dawson has had to write in to bring us up to date (probably using a form letter, by now). It happens that his was one of the names omitted this year, but he has always sent in the names, whether or not.

These are they: Glen Dawson (vice-chairman for southern California), Robert Baker, Richard N. Burnley, Larry Thackwell, and Gordon Stimson.

Moreover, W.S.C. Chairman Einar Nilsson is happy to announce that Phil von Lubken has recovered enough from his accident to serve as chairman of the subcommittee on equipment, and may be addressed in care of the Ski Hut, 2306 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley.

To even things up, we'll list the touring-test judges from the south, as listed in *Mugelnoos*, before we even ask the north

who its candidates are for skiers'-severest-critics. Judges living on or about the 34th parallel are: *4th Class*—Bill Davies, Charles Gerckens, Paul Green, Doc Hannen, Ted Kistner, Lester LaVelle, Wayne Mann, Harvey Mylander; *3d Class*—Dick Burnley, Hensel Fremstad, John D. Mendenhall, Dick Springer, Charles Wilts; *2d Class*—Paul Flinchbaugh, Roy Gorin, Earl Merritt, Larry Thackwell.

Mexico to Canada on Foot

In January, the *SCB* announced a Mexico-to-Canada excursion for last summer, but for various reasons it was postponed. However, it is very much under way for 1949; same route, same schedule, but improved plans.

The route is the crest trail through the high wilderness country of the San Bernardino Range, the Sierra Madre, the Sierra Nevada, and the Cascade Range. Starting near Campo, California the last week of March, 1949, the trip is scheduled to terminate 70 miles east of Blaine, Washington in early October, 1949. The improved plans permit a person who lacks the physical competence required for the entire trip to participate for a period of a month or longer.

This is a journey not only for mountaineers, scientists, and professional people, but also for those seeking a glorious adventure or the high places of life. For details write Joseph C. Wampler, 1940 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley 9, California. [As many members know, Joe Wampler has assisted in the management of three High Trips and one Saddle Trip.—Ed.]

San Jacinto—Still Hope

At the November meeting of the Board, Secretary Leonard told of a conference with Earl Bachman of the Division of Lands and Recreation of the Regional Office of the Forest Service, concerning the request of the San Jacinto Winter Park Authority that the Primitive Area boundary be modified so as to eliminate the north-east quarter and the south half of Section 12. The proposed route of the tramway crosses those portions of the Primitive Area or comes very close to them. The Sec-

retary reported that he had advised the Forest Service that the Sierra Club still considered it quite possible that the tramway might never be built and that the club would use every effort to prevent its being built.

Postage Stamps to Sleep On

Morgan Harris, chairman of the Mountaineering Committee, has received a communication from Ben Ferris, well-known mountaineer with the Harvard Department of Physiology, that promises the early arrival of the millenium for ski mountaineers—a lightweight, serviceable air mattress. To quote Ferris:

"The pads are approximately 24 inches wide and 36 inches long. They have five ribs which are internally communicating. They are a butyl rubber on a nylon backing and weigh about 4-6 ounces. They can be folded to about 4 x 6 x 1/2 inches. Their valve consists of a plug—in other words, pretty simple and foolproof. The pads are moderately tough and with reasonable care they will last 2-3 seasons. If a great deal of sleeping is done on snow and ice the moisture inside the pad from one's breath condenses and they do not last quite so long. On St. Elias I used one for 50 days—mostly on snow and ice—and it lasted. However, I used it another week on a boat and one of the ribs parted. It didn't leak but the poor air distribution was uncomfortable.

"As far as cost is concerned they are a bit more than I had thought. They will probably run \$9.00 each. This is high, I think, but they are extremely light and easy to handle and quite comfortable once you get used to sleeping on a postage stamp."

We have now only to find out (a) where the air pads may be had and (b) what likelihood there is for a lower price. We turn the problem over to the subcommittees on equipment of the Mountaineering, Outing, and Winter Sports committees for early action. Impatient persons may wish to write directly to Mr. Ferris, Harvard University School of Public Health, 55 Shattuck Street, Boston 15. (The Massachusetts Boston, if you were wondering.)

Clair Tappaan Lodge's Form 1040

Reservation Rules and Rates, 1948-49

1. The member or guest must agree to enter into the coöperative spirit of the lodge; to do the tasks arranged by the manager, and to abide by lodge regulations.

2. Reservations are not transferable. Identification may be asked for by the manager.

3. Reservations cannot be made more than 28 days in advance of the time requested.

4. Reservation Office hours: 7-9 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday (or Monday if one of these is a holiday), at 2307 Telegraph, Berkeley 4 (BE 7-0635).

5. A \$2 deposit must accompany each request. Full amount due by 7:30 p.m. prior to the week end requested; otherwise the reservation is considered canceled.

6. Cancellation charges: 50c if canceled by the Tuesday before the week end requested, \$1 by Wednesday, \$2 by Thursday, full amount thereafter. Week-day reservations (except between Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays) may be canceled without penalty if advance notification is given.

7. Members have priority over guests (who must be accompanied by a member) and may have only one guest (plus guest's immediate family). A member's nonmember spouse and children are considered as guests.

8. Reservation priority for 1948 work-party participation: for one 2-day work party—priority on two trips; for two or

more work parties—priority for the season. Priority must be claimed by Wednesday before the week end wanted.

RATES

	MEMBER	GUEST
Short week end (1 night, 3 meals)*	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.50
Long week end (2 nights, 6 meals)*	7.25	8.50
Same, less Friday or Sunday dinner	6.25	7.50
Holiday week end (3 nights, 9 meals)*	10.50	12.50
Week days, 1-5, per day	3.25	4.00
Week days, 6 or more (no week-end reduction), per day	3.00	3.75
Children under 12:		
Week ends, same as adults.		
Week days, member's child, per day*	2.00	
Week days, guest's child, per day*		2.50
Meals and lodging, if sold separately (breakfast, lunch, dinner, lodging):		
Week ends: Member—95¢, 75c, \$1.25*, \$1.25;		
Guest—\$1.10†, 90c, \$1.40*, \$1.40.		
Week days: Member—85c, 65c, \$1.00*, \$1.00;		
Guest—\$1.00, 80c, \$1.25*, \$1.00.		
Children under 12—times two thirds, to the nearest 5c.		

No refunds can be made for meals and lodging missed, except as in paragraph 6.

* Includes 10c ski patrol and first aid fund.

† Sold only in combination with lodging or two other meals.

Ski Hut Fund

At the November meeting of the Board, Lewis Clark presented a following resolution adopted by the Winter Sports Committee at its meeting of November 18:

The Winter Sports Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the committee to prepare and submit a general master plan for a system of shelter huts designed and situated so as to facilitate winter travel in the mountain regions of California accessible from the chief centers of population; and fur-

ther, that a fund be established, to be known as the Ski Hut Fund, to provide for the construction of the regional units of this system as rapidly as moneys become available according to priorities to be established from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Winter Sports Committee was authorized to proceed to prepare and submit a general master plan as proposed above. Members will hear much more about the Ski Hut Fund soon.

the season.
Wednesday

PER GUEST

0 \$ 4.50

5 8.50

5 7.50

60 12.50

5 4.00

0 3.75

2.50

ly (break-

25*, \$1.25;

00*, \$1.00;

ds, to the

meals and

ph 6.

id fund.

odging or

be known

the con-

is system

le accord-

rom time

ded and

ittee was

and sub-

oroposed

ch more

ER, 1948